(c) The estimated coal resources of the country as on 1.1.2007 are 255.17 billion tonnes (bt) of which the proved coal reserves are 97.92 bt. Reserves estimated are not categorized as underground or opencast mine reserves initially. However, depending upon techno-economic factors, the amenability of reserves for opencast mining or underground mining is decided at the time of projectisation of reserves.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to increase the production from underground mines from the current level of 57.76 mt achieved in 2006-07 to about 74 mt in the terminal year 2011-12 of the Eleventh Plan as projected by the Working Group on Coal for formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The projected year-wise production details during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are furnished in the table below:–

(million tonnes)

	2006-07 (Actual)	2007-08 (Target)	2008-09 (Projection)	2009-10 (Projection)	2010-11 (Projection)	2011-12 (Projection)
Production from underground (UG) mines	57.76	62.59	65.03	67.75	71.09	73.93

Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are aiming at increasing the coal production from underground mines by opening new mines with mass production technology and increased production from existing mines through mechanization wherever feasible.

Non-availability of frequencies

*330. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints from the cellular operators about non-availability of frequencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the actual position of shortage of frequency at present;

(c) by when this shortage would be covered;

(d) whether these operators are using latest technology solutions; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) to (c) The requests for the allocation of initial frequencies as per the provisions of the service licence and additional frequencies for the growth of services have been received from various cellular operators and these are examined as per criteria in this regard, subject to availability of spectrum. Requirement of additional spectrum for Metros/Metro like cities and other areas have been estimated.

A project has commenced for providing alternate media like Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) for some existing wireless links of Defence to release spectrum in the relevant frequency bands for mobile services.

(d) and (e) GSM cellular operators have been instructed to deploy various spectrum optimization techniques.

Increasing production of underground coal mines

†*331. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to give economic incentives to increase the production of underground coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in order to give these incentives, there is a proposal to levy cess on production of surface coal mines; and

(d) if so, the comprehensive details of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited are aiming at increasing the coal production from underground mines by opening new mines with mass production technology and increased production from existing mines through mechanization wherever feasible.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Unclaimed passports found in Ghaziabad

†*332. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 2007 in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, more than 100 unclaimed passports were found scattered on the ground and more than 600 passports were found buried under the ground;

(b) whether his Ministry have conducted any inquiry into the entire matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of people arrested, so far in this case and the action taken against them?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.